Frith, C. B. & Frith, D. W. 1988b. Nests and eggs of Papuan Scrub-wren Sericornis papuensis (Acanthizidae) and Grey-streaked Honeyeater Ptiloprora perstriata (Meliphagidae). Aust. Bird Watcher 12: 168–170.

Frith, C. B. & Frith, D. W. 1988c. Discovery of nests and the egg of Archbold's Bowerbird *Archboldia papuensis* (Ptilonorhynchidae). *Aust. Bird Watcher* 12: 251–257.

Frith, C. B. & Frith, D. W. 1989. Nesting biology and relationships of the Lesser Melampitta Melampitta lugubris. Emu 90.

Goodwin, D. 1982. Estrildid Finches of the World. British Museum (Natural History).

Immelmann, K. 1982. Australian Finches in Bush and Aviary. Angus & Robertson, Sydney. Rand, A. L. & Gilliard, E. T. 1967. Handbook of New Guinea Birds. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. Saunders, J. C. 1965. Forest resources of the Wabag-Tari area. In General Report on Lands of the Wabag-Tari Area. Territory of Papua and New Guinea, 1960–61. Land Research Series 15, CSIRO, Melbourne.

Address: C. B. Frith & Dr D. W. Frith, "Prionodura", Paluma via Townsville, Queensland, Australia 4816.

© British Ornithologists' Club 1990.

First specimens of *Drymophila devillei* from Colombia

by Douglas F. Stotz

Received 28 July 1989

Hilty & Brown (1986) note the occurrence of the Striated Antwren Drymophila devillei in northern Ecuador and suggest that it might occur in adjacent Colombia in Putumayo or Amazonas. The Field Museum of Natural History contains 2 unpublished specimens of D. devillei from Putumayo that confirm this prediction. One, a male, was collected by Arturo Pazos on 7 October 1967 at Guascavaco. This locality was not located by Paynter & Traylor (1981), but was thought to be close to Mocoa (1°09'S, 76°37'W). The other specimen is a female collected by Kjell von Sneidern. The tag now accompanying the bird gives no date and only 'Putumayo' as a locality. Based on the collector's number and the specimen's presence in a collection of birds that are otherwise all from San Antonio Guamuez, it appears that this specimen was probably obtained at San Antonio Guamuez (0°31'N, 76°45'W) on 30 October 1969. Incidentally Fitzpatrick & Willard (1982) reported other significant records in von Sneidern's collection from San Antonio Guamuez, including other first records from Colombia of Deconychura stictolaema, Rhegmatorhina melanosticta and Ramphotrigon fuscicauda.

D. devillei is primarily a bird of bamboo thickets (Parker 1982). It is therefore not surprising that von Sneidern obtained several other bamboo-favouring species at this site, including Monasa flavirostris, Automolus melanopezus, Neoctantes niger and Ramphotrigon fuscicauda.

Acknowledgements

I thank the Bird Division of the Field Museum of Natural History, in particular David Willard, Scott Lanyon and John Fitzpatrick, for allowing me to use the collection. Tom Schulenberg and Debby Moskovits provided useful comments on this paper. I also

acknowledge financial support provided by the Field Museum Scholarship Committee through the Lester Armour Graduate Fellowship.

References:

Fitzpatrick, J. W. & Willard, D. E. 1982. Twenty-one bird species new or little-known from the Republic of Colombia. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 102: 153–158.

Hilty, S. L. & Brown, W. L. 1986. A Guide to the Birds of Colombia. Princeton Univ. Press. Parker, T. A., III. 1982. Observations of some unusual rainforest and marsh birds in southeastern Peru. Wilson Bull. 94: 477-493.

Paynter, R. A. Jr. & Traylor, M. A. 1981. Ornithological Gazetteer of Colombia. Harvard Univ. Press.

Address: D. F. Stotz, Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Caixa Postal 7172, Sao Paulo, S. P. CEP 01051, Brazil.

© British Ornithologists' Club 1990.

Taxonomy of the *Phylloscopus proregulus* complex

by Per Alström & Urban Olsson

Received 28 July 1989

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* is usually divided into 3 subspecies:

(1) proregulus (Pallas) breeding in Siberia, northern Mongolia and northeastern China (Manchuria), and wintering mainly in southeastern China;

(2) chloronotus (Gray) breeding in central China and in the Himalayas west to central Nepal, where it intergrades with

(3) simlaensis Ticehurst, which occurs in the western Himalayas. The latter 2 are mainly altitudinal migrants (see Ali & Ripley 1973, Cheng 1987, Harrison 1982, Mayr & Cottrell 1986, Ticehurst 1938, Williamson 1967; Fig. 1).

Another form, kansuensis Meise (northern Gansu Province, China), has been described, but was regarded by Vaurie (1954) as synonymous with proregulus; Mayr & Cottrell (1986) follow Vaurie in this respect. Cheng (1987), on the other hand, treats it as a synonym of chloronotus. Judging from the only specimen of this form that we have seen (at the British Museum (Natural History) (BMNH), Tring; BM No. 1938.5.16.21), we agree with Cheng that it is best synonymised with chloronotus; Peter Colston (BMNH), who has also studied this specimen, agrees.

Cheng and Mayr & Cottrell state that *proregulus* intergrades with *chloronotus* in the eastern part of Qinghai Province, China, a statement for which we have found no support. Accordingly, we believe that the breeding range of nominate *proregulus* is geographically well separated from *chloronotus*/simlaensis (Fig. 1).

We have studied all 3 forms on their respective breeding grounds: proregulus in Siberia in 1984 and 1986 and in Manchuria in 1987 and 1988;